
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6539

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Economic Development (originally sponsored by Senators Hewitt, Jacobsen, Honeyford, Haugen, Carlson, Kline, Winsley and Parlette)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to economic development of historic county
2 courthouses; adding a new section to chapter 27.34 RCW; creating a new
3 section; making an appropriation; and providing an effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that twenty-eight of
6 the state's thirty-nine currently operating county courthouses appear
7 to meet the state criteria as historic buildings. Washington's
8 historic county courthouses are an unsurpassed historical and
9 architectural collection reflecting civic pride, local heritage, and
10 master craftsmanship. These buildings are intensively used by the
11 public as the seats of county government and as judicial and criminal
12 justice centers. As anchors of the downtown commercial cores of their
13 communities, these courthouses strengthen local commerce, attract
14 tourism, and provide a sense of identity. Capital improvements to
15 these landmarks are needed to protect their safety and historic and
16 architectural integrity.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 27.34 RCW
18 to read as follows:

1 (1) The historic county courthouse account is created in the state
2 treasury. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation.
3 Expenditures from the account shall be used exclusively to fund the
4 historic county courthouse grant program.

5 (2) The historic county courthouse grant program is established
6 within the department of community, trade, and economic development for
7 the protection and preservation of the state's historic county
8 courthouses. The department's office of archaeology and historic
9 preservation shall administer the historic county courthouse grant
10 program. No more than one percent of the expenditures from the
11 historic county courthouse account may be used for the administrative
12 purposes of the department. All other expenditures from the account
13 shall be for grants to be made to counties for the protection and
14 preservation of courthouses that meet the eligibility requirements for
15 listing on the Washington heritage register established under RCW
16 27.34.220. Counties receiving grants under this section shall provide
17 an equal amount of matching funds from public or private sources.

18 (3) By October 1, 2004, the office of archaeology and historic
19 preservation, working with the advisory board established in subsection
20 (4) of this section, shall establish eligibility criteria and a grant
21 application process. Grants may be made for courthouse protection and
22 preservation, including character defining architectural features,
23 general repairs, system upgrades, and improvements to access and
24 accommodations for persons with disabilities. All rehabilitation work
25 shall comply with the federal department of the interior's standards
26 for rehabilitation. Grants shall not be used for expenditures for
27 courthouse maintenance. Only counties with historic courthouses that
28 continue to maintain county functions are eligible for grants under
29 this section.

30 (4) The office of archaeology and historic preservation shall
31 establish an historic courthouse advisory board. The advisory board
32 shall make recommendations to the office regarding eligibility
33 criteria, the grant application process, and prioritization of
34 applicants for receipt of grant awards. The board shall include two
35 county elected officials appointed by the Washington state association
36 of counties, two county elected officials appointed by the Washington
37 association of county officials, a representative of a statewide
38 historic preservation organization, a representative from a county

1 heritage commission that is a certified local government, a member of
2 the senate appointed by the president of the senate, a member of the
3 house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of
4 representatives, a member of the state advisory council on historic
5 preservation, and up to three at-large members with expertise in
6 architecture, architectural history, construction, construction
7 management, engineering, planning, or a related field.

8 (5) If available funds in the account exceed eligible courthouse
9 grant recipients, historic county-owned facilities such as libraries,
10 museums, and hospitals may apply for grants using the same criteria.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of ten million dollars is
12 transferred from the state building construction account for the fiscal
13 year ending June 30, 2005, to the historic county courthouse account.
14 The sum of ten million dollars is appropriated from the historic county
15 courthouse account to the department of community, trade, and economic
16 development for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, to carry out the
17 purposes of section 2 of this act.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect July 1, 2004.

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